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Wednesday, January 24, 2018 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

90TH OSCAR NOMS ANNOUNCED

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GIRL POWER

In the midst of a national movement for women's rights, New York is taking action to empower young girls to show them that they can grow up to do anything. 6

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GREGORY WAKEMAN, FEATURES REPORTER

The nominations for the 90th Academy Awards were announced bright and early Tuesday morning, and it was the nautical love story between a mute and a sea creature that reigned victorious. Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape Of Water" landed 13 nominations, four more than the next closest contender — critic favorite "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," which came in with nine. But there were a glut of surprises and delights, all of which you can read about on page 15.

TWO KILLED IN KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

A 15-year-old boy opened fire with a handgun in his high school in western Kentucky on Tuesday, killing two fellow students and wounding a dozen other youths before being arrested, the state's governor and police said. The shooting began shortly before 8 a.m. local time at Marshall County High School in Benton, a small town about 130 miles northwest of Nashville, Tennessee, according to Kentucky State Police and Gov. Matt Bevin. Authorities offered no information on the motive behind the shooting. There was no immediate indication how well the youth, who officials said faces multiple charges of murder and attempted murder, knew the victims. "There's no good answer for it," Bevin told reporters at an afternoon news conference. Five of the wounded students were taken to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's trauma center.

DEMOCRATS WITHDRAW WALL FUNDING OFFER

2 Democrats said on Tuesday they had withdrawn an offer to fund President Donald Trump's border wall, as tough negotiations over the future of young illegal immigrants known as Dreamers resumed in the Senate. Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said he pulled the offer because of what he said was Trump's failure to follow through on the outlines of an agreement the two men discussed last Friday. "So we're going to have to start on a new basis and the wall offer is off the table," Schumer said. During the 2016 election campaign, Republican Trump said Mexico would pay the cost of building a wall along the southwestern border of the United States to keep out illegal immigrants. Mexico has rejected the idea. As a result, Trump has asked Congress for taxpayer funds for the wall. Government estimates are that it could cost over $21 billion.

PHILIPPINES VOLCANO

3 Lava spews from the Mayon volcano as it erupts, as seen from Legazpi City in Albay province, south of Manila, early on Tuesday. A giant mushroom-shaped cloud shot up from the Philippines' most active volcano on Monday, witnesses and officials said, darkening the skies and raining ash on surrounding communities where tens of thousands have fled an impending eruption.

GETTY IMAGES

AG SESSIONS QUESTIONED IN RUSSIA PROBE

4 Attorney General Jeff Sessions was questioned last week by the special counsel's office investigating potential collusion between Russia and President Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, the Justice Department said on Tuesday. The interview marked the first time that special counsel Robert Mueller's office is known to have interviewed a member of Trump's cabinet, and is another milestone in an investigation that has hung over Trump's year-old presidency. Mueller's office also interviewed former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey shortly after Trump fired Comey in May 2017, a person familiar with the matter said. Comey's firing led to Mueller's appointment by the Justice Department's No. 2 official, Rod Rosenstein, to take over the FBI's Russia investigation.

NY FINES AETNA FOR LEAKING HIV STATUSES

5 Aetna Inc. will pay a $1.15 million civil fine and improve its privacy practices to settle charges that it leaked the HIV-positive statuses of 2,460 New York members in a mailing where it used envelopes with large transparent windows. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman on Tuesday said names, addresses, claim numbers and HIV medication instructions in the July 28, 2017, mailing were "clearly visible" to outsiders because of how Aetna folded letters and inserted them into the envelopes. The mailing was intended to notify members of a class action settlement permitting them to buy HIV medication at pharmacies rather than by mail. The Connecticut-based company did not admit or deny wrongdoing, and agreed to retain an independent consultant for two years to monitor its efforts to improve member privacy.

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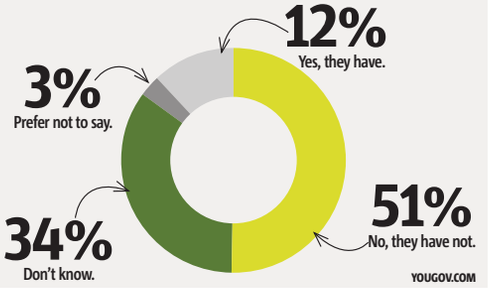

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New York City sues opioid makers, distributors for role in drug epidemic

The mayor announced the lawsuit against drug manufacturers and distributors on Tuesday.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

Mayor Bill de Blasio and first lady Chirlane McCray announced on Tuesday that New York City has filed a lawsuit to hold drug companies accountable for their part in the opioid epidemic.

The lawsuit, filed in New York State Supreme Court, names manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids, including Purdue Pharma, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Cephalon, Johnson & Johnson and more, alleging that they are the root cause of the crisis.

The suit aims to recover half a billion dollars "in current and future costs the city will incur to combat this epidemic," according to the mayor's office.

Overdose deaths in New York City rose 17 percent between 2014 and 2015 and then jumped 50 percent from 2015 to 2016, said Dr. Herminia Palacio, deputy mayor for Health and Human Services, at a Tuesday news conference.

In 2016, more than 1,000 people in New York City died of opioid-related overdoses, the largest number on record for one year. That's more than the number of New Yorkers who died in car accidents and homicides combined last year.

"Big Pharma helped to fuel this epidemic by deceptively peddling these dangerous drugs and hooking millions of Americans in exchange for profit," Mayor de Blasio said in a statement. "It's time to hold the companies accountable for what they've done to our city, and help save more lives."

The lawsuit alleges that manufacturers misrepresented the safety of long-term opioid use and distributors oversupplied opioids, leading to the opioid crisis and a "substantial burden" on New York City because of increased substance use treatment.

"As the dangers [of these drugs] became more and more clear, the companies went out of their way to publicly minimize the dangers — went out of their way to promote the use and overuse, to keep encouraging doctors and the whole society to feel that they needed these drugs even when they didn't," de Blasio said at the news conference.

The mayor and first lady last March launched HealingNYC, a $38 million initiative to address the opioid epidemic. Under that initiative, the city's health department has distributed more than 60,000 naloxone kits to opioid overdose prevention programs.

"Every single death from opioids is a preventable death," Palacio said.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh also announced this week that he was considering legal action against pharmaceutical companies over their role in the epidemic. Other municipalities in New York have made moves to hold opioid manufacturers and distributors accountable, and cities across the country, including Chicago, Seattle and Cincinnati, have taken legal action against drug companies.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has announced a new lawsuit that aims to recover half a billion dollars from drug companies. GETTY IMAGES

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STEM gender gap, empowering girls part of Cuomo's 2018 Women's Agenda

NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

"New York leads the nation in championing women's rights and breaking down barriers to equality, and that mission starts when women are girls."

Gov. Cuomo with a young New Yorker at the Women's March breakfast. On Monday, he unveiled the "Be Aware-Be Informed" module of his 2018 Women's Agenda geared to girls. **FLICKR/GOV. ANDREW CUOMO**

As part of his 2018 Women's Agenda for New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced new actions geared toward empowering girls.

The "Be Aware-Be Informed" learning module will enable state youth to build healthy relationships, close the STEM gender gap, offer mentoring and leadership opportunities and ensure students have access to necessary feminine hygiene products in public schools.

"New York leads the nation in championing women's rights and breaking down barriers to equality, and that mission starts when women are girls," Cuomo said in a statement. "With these proposals, New York is demonstrating our commitment to empowering women throughout their lifetimes, and showing girls that they can do anything."

Curriculum regarding relationships includes learning to recognize the difference between a healthy relationship and abuse, information on confronting and avoiding sexual harassment, assault and teen dating violence as well as "age-appropriate, medically accurate sexual education in the classroom," Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

"With these proposals, New York is demonstrating our commitment to empowering women throughout their lifetimes, and showing girls that they can do anything."
Gov. Andrew Cuomo

The plan will also launch an investment to expand computer science and tech education with teacher support, including $6 million in grants, and other resources for students from kindergarten through high school to provide more exposure to STEM fields at a young age.

Through the "If You Can See It, You Can Be It" initiative, New York state will enhance programming and partner with top companies to enable young girls to shadow women leaders.

Cuomo is also proposing legislation that would require school districts to provide students free, necessary feminine hygiene products in school bathrooms for grades 6 through 12.

Bill Cosby performs at first gig since sex scandals

Comedian Bill Cosby performed his first stand-up gig since being swept up in sex scandals, joking in Philadelphia on Monday about his blindness and fueling criticism on social media, according to video posted online.

The 80-year-old entertainer's appearance at the LaRose Jazz Club marked his first show since 2015 and came ahead of an April retrial for an alleged 2004 sexual assault in suburban Philadelphia.

Cosby, who starred in the 1980s TV series "The Cosby Show," has seen his family-friendly reputation destroyed by dozens of sexual assault allegations. He has denied assaulting anyone, saying any encounters with his accusers were consensual.

Online video footage showed Cosby wearing a sweatshirt and seated on a stool in the club. Describing people's reactions when he walks into things he cannot see, Cosby said: "There's a perfectly good word called 'stop,' not 'oh-oh-oh-oh-oh,'" drawing laughs from the crowd.

Bill Cosby performed for the first time since his legal issues began. GETTY IMAGES

Cosby's show was widely criticized on Twitter, with novelist Terry McMillan saying: "If you gave me front row seats to see Bill Cosby, I'd burn them."

Jeff Romaine tweeted: "NO ONE should ever go see him publicly without bringing a sack full of rotten fruit to throw. I would just feel bad for the fruit."

Cosby is scheduled go to trial on April 2 on charges that he drugged and assaulted Andrea Constand at his home in the Philadelphia suburb of Cheltenham. His first trial ended in a mistrial in June.

Pennsylvania prosecutors asked the judge in the case last week to allow the testimony of 19 other accusers, including 12 women who were not allowed to testify in the entertainer's first trial.

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Date: Tuesday, February 20 Time: 6:00–7:00 pm
Location: 160 East 34th Street, 11th Floor, Room 1121

Is Radiation Therapy the Right Treatment Option for Me?
Date: Thursday, February 22 Time: 5:30–6:30 pm
Location: 160 East 34th Street, 11th Floor, Room 1121

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HEART HEALTH

Heart Disease in Women
Date: Tuesday, February 13 Time: 6:30–7:30 pm
Location: 550 First Avenue, Alumni Hall B

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Locast.org gives local TV access to cord-cutting New Yorkers

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If you're looking to break from cable, this streaming service offers local weather, sports, news and more exclusively to city residents.

Cord cutting, aka the act of leaving pay-TV providers like cable companies for internet-based streaming, has grown exponentially in recent years thanks to services like Netflix, Amazon, Hulu and now, exclusive to New Yorkers, Locast.org.

A play on "local" and "broadcast," Locast is a nonprofit that launched two weeks ago and works as a "translator" to provide broadcast signals from more than a dozen local stations for free or little cost via the internet.

If you're wondering how that might be legal, founder/chairman David Goodfriend, who also happens to be a law professor at Georgetown University, cited a federal copyright law that allows nonprofits to retransmit broadcasts.

"Every single broadcaster today is using public broadcasting in the form of an FCC license," he explained. "Yet they tend to be using it more and more for profit instead of for making sure that everybody has access to important local news, weather, sports and network programming."

Locast is part of the Sports Fan Coalition (SFC), which Goodfriend founded in 2009 — and which famously and successfully petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to end the NFL's 40-year blackout rule in 2014, despite heavy opposition from the league and the sports and broadcast industries.

"The achievement of getting a federal agency to take that step and do it in such a bipartisan way is that this notion of bringing back the public interest to media and sports is alive and well," he said.

Since its Jan. 11 launch, "tens of thousands of New Yorkers have taken advantage of Locast," Goodfriend said. "We are at more than double the number of users we wanted to have after 30 days."

The service, however, is not without detractors, including the National Association of Broadcasters.

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David Goodfriend, founder/chairman of Locast and the Sports Fan Coalition, is also a law professor at Georgetown who famously took on the NFL in 2014 and got it to end its 40-year blackout rule. PROVIDED

merous services from Aereo to FilmOn have tried to find creative ways to skirt the communications and copyright laws that protect local broadcasters and our tens of millions of viewers," Dennis Wharton, NAB's executive vice president of communications, said in a statement earlier this month. "We are deeply skeptical that this service will survive legal scrutiny where its predecessors have failed."

Though it is only available in New York City currently, Locast is gaining fans outside the area, from the Hudson Valley and Connecticut to Milwaukee, Goodfriend said.

"I think a beautiful model could be Locast partnering with nonprofits in other markets to launch where they live and operate," he said. "I'd love to see that a year from now blossoming all over the country."

SFC and Locast board member Habiba Alcindor, a cord cutter herself, wants her fellow New Yorkers to have more access to the sports they love, which isn't surprising as she's the daughter of NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. But she'd also like to see Locast eventually offer original programming such as coverage of local handball tournaments.

She was drawn to both of Goodfriend's nonprofits "because I believe that sports should not evolve to a level where it excludes the fans or where you have to have an enormous amount of money to be a fan," she said. "I like the idea of making sports more available in New York, and I do know a lot of people who had to get rid of cable because it's so expensive."

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Hawaii's governor delayed fixing missile alert because he forgot Twitter password

SAM BRODSKY
Samantha.Brodsky@metro.us

We feel you.

Gov. David Ige revealed that the false missile alert was sent during a shift change and that an employee pushed the wrong button. GETTY IMAGES

On the morning of Saturday, Jan. 13, residents were in disarray when Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) mistakenly sent an alert to their phones at 8:07 a.m. warning of a missile threat.

The message, which also aired on TV and radio stations across the state, read, "Emergency alert: Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill."

At 8:10 a.m., Gov. David Ige (D) was informed that it was, in fact, a false alarm, but he didn't tell the public via Twitter until 8:24 a.m. when he retweeted the HI-EMA account's notification sent out four minutes prior.

Ige revealed that the false missile alert was sent during a shift change and that an employee pushed the wrong button.

Ige later tweeted a series of posts from a statement shared to Facebook that began, "Today is a day most of us will never forget. A terrifying day when our worst nightmares appeared to become a reality. A day where we frantically grabbed what we could, tried to figure out how and where to shelter and protect ourselves and our ohana, said our 'I love yous,' and prayed for peace.

"I know firsthand how today's false notification affected all of us here in Hawai'i, and I am sorry for the pain and confusion it caused," the note continued. "I, too, am extremely upset about this and am doing everything I can to immediately improve our emergency management systems, procedures and staffing."

He concluded the post, "We must also do what we can to demand peace and a de-escalation with North Korea, so that warnings and sirens can become a thing of the past."

The following day he shared a lengthy apology to Facebook — which he, again, posted in bits on Twitter, and he addressed citizens in a live broadcast Monday evening. Ige stated that they've established better protocols and lines of communication across their emergency management network, but acknowledged there is much to do moving forward to ensure this type of mistake never happens again.

A spokesperson for the governor told Huffington Post that his staff handles his social media accounts, and "it took time for the governor to contact us and give us the information before we could post it."

The information Ige was looking for? His Twitter password.

After his State of the State address yesterday, Ige told reporters that he couldn't immediately share the Jan. 13 alert update because he couldn't log in.

"I have to confess that I don't know my Twitter account log-ons and the passwords, so certainly that's one of the changes that I've made," Ige said, according to Huffington Post.

He continued, "I was in the process of making calls to the leadership team both in Hawaii Emergency Management as well as others. The focus really was on trying to get as many people informed about the fact that it was a false alert."

The governor further stated that he has since saved his Twitter information on his cellphone "so that we can access the social media directly." Although technology can be all-consuming, it's good for two things above all else: Staying connected and keeping tabs on important info — credit scores, shopping lists and Twitter passwords alike.

Baseball Hall of Fame to announce 2018 inductees

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Cooperstown is slated to have a few new inhabitants take up residence this summer.

One may not find America's pastime, baseball, in a more pure state than how it is in Cooperstown, New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The small village in upstate New York has been the home of the game since 1939, preserving the legacy of baseball's greatest legends and becoming the desired destination of any ballplayer who laced up his cleats in the major leagues.

On Wednesday evening, a few more names will be added to the list of 319 elected members, chosen by the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) as the Hall of Fame announces its upcoming 2018 inductees.

In total, 21 players appeared on this year's ballot where members of the BWAA were tasked with choosing those they see fit for election. With over 400 ballots expected to be cast, candidates must receive at least a 75 percent acceptance rate to gain entry into the Hall of Fame.

In the latest numbers obtained by Metro New York, Vladimir Guerrero, Chipper Jones and Jim Thome are all but locks for enshrinement while another two, Trevor Hoffman and Edgar Martinez, could squeak their way into the hall this year as well. Once again, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens — two players who have been linked with performance-enhancing drugs — will likely fall short for a sixth consecutive season.

2018 is Jim Thome's first year on the Hall of Fame ballot. GETTY IMAGES

VLADIMIR GUERRERO

- Second year on ballot
- 9-time All-Star
- 2004 American League MVP
- .318 career batting average
- 449 home runs
- 1,496 RBI
- 2,590 hits

CHIPPER JONES

- First year on ballot
- 8-time All-Star
- 1999 National League MVP
- 2008 National League Batting Champion
- .303 career batting average
- 468 home runs
- 2,726 hits

JIM THOME

- First year on ballot
- 5-time All-Star
- 612 home runs (8th in MLB history)
- 2,328 hits

TREVOR HOFFMAN

- Third year on ballot
- 7-time All-Star
- 601 saves (2nd in MLB history)
- 2.87 career ERA

EDGAR MARTINEZ

- Ninth year on ballot
- 7-time All-Star
- 2-time American League batting champion
- .312 career batting average
- 309 home runs
- 2,247 hits

Chipper Jones. GETTY IMAGES

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Can This Medical Technology Possibly Eliminate Or

The Advanced Medical Treatment Every Back & Neck Pain Sufferer Needs To Kno

NYC Pain MD is a medical clinic with two locations in New York City that has made a name for itself by treating the worst cases of back or neck pain.

Here is what every back and neck pain sufferer who has failed to respond to other treatments and does not want surgery should know about one of the best treatment options available today for severe back and neck pain including when, why and where you should consider this treatment to get maximum results.

If you suffer with back, neck or nerve pain, you have probably already tried *many* treatments ... especially countless pain medications.

Experienced doctors understand that even though pain medications such as anti-inflammatory pain pills are part of the recommended early treatment plan for back pain... they are rarely the answer.

In most cases they have minimal, short term results (if any) and have a laundry list of potential side effects. Some being serious and even life threatening.

Are there any better options?

Thankfully, advancements in science and technology come extremely fast. And now there is very good option to help relieve the pain.

An option that a lot of back and neck pain sufferers may have never heard of before.

Before we get into these treatments, please understand this...

NYC Pain MD is a REAL medical clinic that has treated the worst cases of back pain. Patients travel from all over to be treated at one of their clinics for all sorts of joint and muscle pain because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover is a REAL medical treatment. Not some miracle cure you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: <u>There is no one treatment that will help every case of back pain.</u> And we cannot guarantee this treatment will work for you. But this treatment has already helped countless back and neck pain sufferers who had given up hope. I bet many just like you.

What is this treatment? It's called...

Radiofrequency Neurotomy

"Radiofrequncy Neurotomy" is often referred to as RF for short. Just what is "RF".

RF is a procedure that is based on the concept that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

There are many nerves around your spine and one of their jobs is to sense PAIN.

Radiofrequency waves are delivered to these nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves and slow down the pain

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, the Radio Frequency Neurotomy is scheduled and performed for longer term relief.

What Results Can You Expect?

Like all real medical procedures... results vary for individual patients. No good and ethical doctor would guarantee any exact results for any procedure... that's just not how things work and it would be less than honest.

That's being said, it is not uncommon for patients to get complete, if not significant relief of their pain shortly after the treatment.

How Long Do The Results Last?

This procedure "impaits" the nerves pain signals... it does not destroy them. Therefore, the results are safe but not completely permanent. But, many patients get relief for 6 months… 12 months…. 18 months for some even longer. The great news is - another procedure can be safely preformed for more relief if necessary.

While we cannot claim this is a complete "permanent cure" . . . it can be a godsend for so many who were in constant pain.

Really... what would it be worth if you could get out of pain for long enough so you could start enjoying your everyday life again?

Would it be worth it to be able to finally get a good night's sleep again?

How about being able to go for a simple walk or just do your basic daily chores without worrying about so much pain?

Is It Safe?

Yes. This procedure has been done countless times and continues to have an excellent safety record. It is minimally invasive and i*s not surgical.*

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti - inflammatory pain medication and physical therapy do not offer good enough results.

RF has also been found effective AFTER back surgery when patient's still feel pain.

The pain after a failed back surgery can be debilitating for some and this procedure may be the only thing that helps give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain And The "X" Factor

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof without the need for a surgical center or hospital.

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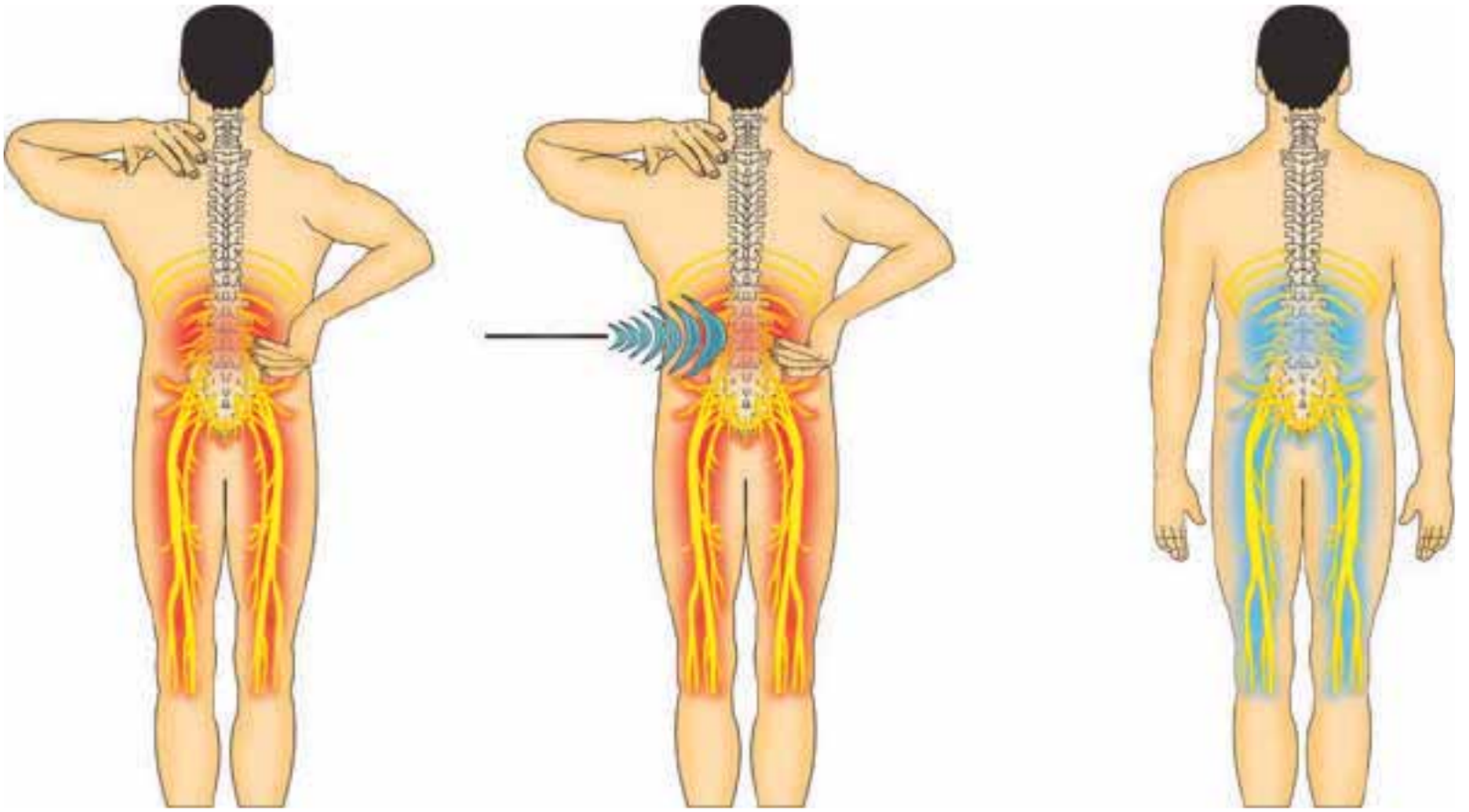

Science rescues back & neck pain sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many

NYC Pain MD's method allows you to avoid expensive hospital or out patient surgi-center facility fees which often run 3 to 4 times the cost of the procedure itself. And you don't have to go through the huge stress and time consuming process of going all over the city to outside centers. All the *NYC Pain MD* treatments can be done in our in-office procedure suites saving you stress, time and dollars. *NYC Pain MD* believes this additional "X" factor is one of the reasons so many back pain sufferers travel from all over to be treated at their advanced medical center.

Your Invitation

NYC Pain MD offers limited number of complimentary back and neck pain screenings every month. These screenings are a way for pain sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at *NYC Pain MD*. If you would like complimentary screening, just call 877-503-8540 and tell the scheduling co-ordinator who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary back pain screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

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the word

Franco's no Weinstein

Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Violet Paley — two women who have accused James Franco of sexual misconduct — appeared on "Good Morning America" on Tuesday morning, detailing Franco's inappropriate behavior.

Tither-Kaplan explained that Franco's main sin is creating an environment where women could easily be exploited. "James abused his power by exploiting the non-celebrity women that he worked with under the guise of giving them opportunities," she said. "[He] is absolutely not a Harvey Weinstein. He is not an unfeeling monster who has no sense of reality."

She also said that the best way for the 39-year-old to make retribution would be to use his celebrity for good — namely "using his power to give opportunities to women that are real and valuable and actually give them career advancement." She added, "He's not an unforgivable person, at least for me."

Paley simply says she's ready for Franco to apologize already.

Here's hoping Franco is listening.

Listen up, Franco.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bella is SO bad!

Bella Thorne was kicked out of a hotel for smoking marijuana. Sure!

Page Six reports that the 20-year-old and her entourage were removed from their hotel in Park City, Utah, on Sunday, after being caught smoking the good stuff. Thorne is at Sundance to promote "Assassination Nation," a film that is actually getting good reviews.

"They were seen rushing out of the hotel hours before the premiere," a source on the scene said.

"There were so many bags they needed a trail car to carry them."

The next day, Thorne called in sick for most of her press interviews for whatever reason. Probably to prove she's a badass!

Because, as we all know, the best way to prove that you're really a "wild child" isn't to get your Lindsay Lohan circa her hot mess years (RIP) on, but to smoke weed and to not show up for your job. OK!

Luann is doing great, BTW

After an arrest for battery and intoxication and a stint in rehab, Luann de Lesseps has returned to New York.

"It's good to be home," she wrote on Twitter. "I'm doing great. Spending time with friends and family. Thanking everyone for your continued good wishes and support."

If you, like me, know nothing about the Countess or the "Real Housewives of New York," here's the deal: De Lesseps was arrested on Dec. 24 in Palm Beach, Florida. Her charges included battery on a law enforcement officer (dang), resisting arrest with violence (oh, man), disorderly intoxication (no big) and corruption by threat (damn, son).

Afterward, she voluntarily checked into rehab, telling Us Weekly she was embarrassed of her behavior and had therefore decided to seek professional help.

Well, damn, girl. Good on you for making a change. I'd cheers to you, but that would be unhelpful, probably.

The Countess is back!

Kate Hudson is not engaged

Kate Hudson was spotted with a wedding ring on her left ring finger, and you know what that means: nothing!

Although the 38-year-old actress was spotted sporting bling while out riding dirt bikes with boyfriend Danny Fujikawa, she took it off for the Screen Actors Guild Awards. And a source says that's because really, there's nothing to see here, telling People the couple is not engaged.

In case you were wondering.

Hudson and Fujikawa have been dating a little over a year, and she celebrated the anniversary of their first date with a very long caption on Instagram in December. No, seriously, Hudson is giving you their whole life slash love story and it's basically a novella. And therefore too long to repeat in print. But trust me, it's a lot.

Anyway, as long as we're clear that these two aren't engaged — yet — I think we're done here.

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"The Shape of Water" leads the way with 13 nominations. FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The 2018 Oscar nominations are actually impressive

A look at the most surprising nominations and snubs.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

On Tuesday morning, the nominees for the 90th annual Academy Awards were released. "The Shape Of Water" lead the nominations, collecting 13 — four ahead of its closest rival, frontrunner "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri."

But while Guillermo del Toro and Martin McDonagh's films were widely expected to be in the running for the top gongs, there were plenty of surprises when the nominations were announced by "Girls Trip" breakout Tiffany Haddish and motion capture star Andy Serkis.

The most startling (but arguably most welcome) news was the omission of James Franco from the Best Actor list for his performance in "The Disaster Artist." Franco was expected to at least be in the running after he picked up the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Comedy earlier this month.

Jimmy Kimmel will play host at the Academy Awards on March 4. JEFF LIPSKY/ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

But the five sexual assault allegations made against the actor scuttled his Oscar hopes. "The Disaster Artist" only picked up one nomination, for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Another film that was surprisingly overlooked? "The Post." Sure, it walked away with two high-profile nominations — one for Best Picture category and an obligatory Best Actress nod for Meryl Streep — but director Steven Spielberg and lead actor Tom Hanks were not recognized for their work on the film.

The Academy does deserve some credit for the diversity in its nominations: Daniel Kaluuya ("Get Out") and Denzel Washington ("Roman J. Israel, Esq.") will go head-to-head in the Best Actor field; Mary J. Blige ("Mudbound") and Octavia Spencer ("The Shape of Water") are both nominated for Best Supporting Actress; and Guillermo del Toro ("The Shape Of Water"), Greta Gerwig ("Lady Bird") and Jordan Peele ("Get Out") are all up for Best Director.

All of which means that the 90th Academy Awards have taken shape quite nicely.

Visit metro.us/entertainment to see who we think will come out on top in the ceremony and who we will actually be rooting for.

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New fire in Hell's Kitchen

Jax-B-B-Q turns out wood-smoked Southern delicacies.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

Everything at Jax-B-B-Q is old school, from the smoking techniques to the furniture. JASON GREENSPAN

It seems appropriate that Hell's Kitchen now has a proper wood pit barbecue joint where low and slow is the name of the game.

Jax-B-B-Q "is not fake barbecue — this is real," promises owner and pitmaster Nick Accardi. "People seem to think unless you're in the backwoods of Georgia, it's not real barbecue. That's not so — as long as you've got a wood pit and use traditional methods, you can get really good barbecue."

Nick Accardi

Now open at 496 Ninth Ave., the Americana-infused roadhouse is Accardi's 10th restaurant in the city, which have spanned from Italian food at Tavola to American bistro fare at Viceroy. But it's barbecue that's near and dear to his heart, first at the West Village's dearly departed Bone Lick Park and now Jax.

His passion for soul food comes from living in Central Florida decades ago, "back when it was Southern." But Accardi learned to be a pitmaster at the hallowed smoker of Mike Mills, a barbecue Hall of Famer from southern Illinois known for his baby back ribs.

The menu at Jax is a little bit of everything from the geography of Accardi's life. The dry-rubbed barbecue is smoked with white oak, birch and cherry woods and served with a Kansas City-style sweet-tangy sauce made in-house. Florida is represented with alligator tail fritters and Key lime pie. New Orleans fried catfish is accounted for. And then there's the on-trend burger menu with options ranging from dry-aged black angus beef to wild boar and the Impossible Burger, all on brioche-style Orwasher's buns.

Instead of the barn vibe of most barbecue places, Accardi brought his vast collection of vintage Americana into Jax for a more roadhouse-style feeling, from 1930s stools to classic porcelain enamel signs.

The drinks menu features a respectable list of craft beers, of course, but also a lengthy tequila list and a selection of frozen margaritas. "They're fun," Accardi says with a laugh. And shouldn't that be the point of a barbecue joint?

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Get organized!

home

Small spaces are no problem if your furniture can do double duty. IKEA

We asked Ikea how to start down your own path to your most orderly home.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

If finally getting your house in order (not metaphorically) is among your New Year's resolutions, then you need Ikea's Make Room for Organization workshop and sale.

On Jan. 27-28 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., every Ikea store in the U.S. will become organization headquarters. You'll score deals on storage items like hangers and dressers, then take part in activities and seminars to get you ready to clean up your life.

To get you started, we asked Ikea's Home Tour Squad, who travel the country to make over real homes, to answer the five most common organization questions they get.

Best way to organize?
The beginning of every organization project is taking an inventory you have so you get the right amount of storage.

But it's thinking a bit about the future that will really keep your life tidy. "A wardrobe tends to grow over time," says Stephanie Recupero, an Ikea interior designer. Don't just buy what you need now — "leave some room for growth."

How do I get started?
Know what you need by knowing what you'll want to do in the room. "Prioritize the activities you want to do in a space because that's going to dictate what you need for it," recommends Rocky Brewer, who's been with Ikea for 10 years.

Then, measure everything — not just the walls, but also windows, doors and the height of the room.

How can I get the most out of my small space?
"With a small space, use pieces that can serve more than one purpose," recommends Brewer. Can't fit a bed and a side table? Put a desk next to the bed that can serve as a night-stand. And don't forget the most overlooked opportunity for saving space: "A lot of people don't take advantage to the height of their walls," Brewer notes.

Desk by day, side table by night. IKEA

How can I create a room that allows for multiple activities?
"When you have a space that has to do double duty, it's important to think in zones," says Brewer.

Try drawing out the room as if you were looking down from above and break it into bubbles of activity instead of making the same space serve functions for different people. Figure out what those activities need — an easel, a chaise, a desk — and work from there.

How can I stay on budget?
Just like you wouldn't change everything about your life all at once, you don't have to change everything about a room to make it work better for you.

For a home office, "I can get a nice desk, but let me really put my budget toward a chair that's really going to affect my work ethic and health."

Eat more home-cooked meals, with less actual cooking on your part. ISTOCK

Make your life easier with a multicooker

Want to cook more, but spend less time and effort on it? Let an Instant Pot be your new plug-in home chef.

KATE MOONEY
kate.mooney@metro.us

Perhaps you've heard: People are obsessed with their Instant Pots. Who can resist the droid-like devices, with their rounded tubs, cheerful blinking lights and pledge to do it all faster and better than we ever could? Like Roombas, they're the loyal robot pets to whom we relegate our most laborious and abhorred home tasks. Whether it's vaccuming up the heap of dog hair from under the couch or cooking a big ol' pot of beans in less than an hour, all we have to do is press a few buttons and BB-8 (or R2-D2, depending on your loyalties) will take it from here!

OK, enough with the A.I. smarm. If you aspire to do more home cooking without spending more hours slaving over the stove, investing in a multicooker can make that happen. It doesn't have to be an Instant Pot; plenty of brands have put out well-reviewed products that offer the same set-it-and-forget-it functionality. Here's everything you need to know about your future plug-in home chef.

What is a multicooker?

The multifunctional kitchen appliance does the work of about seven devices in one. It's a slow cooker, pressure cooker, rice cooker, steamer, yogurt maker, saute pan and warming pot. Basically, you throw in what you want to cook, select the proper setting and temperature, switch on the timer and leave it be. You're barely cooking; you're more delegating, while the multicooker does the heavy-lifting for you.

What can you cook with it?

A better question would be, what can't you cook? (More on that later.) Use the slow cooker function for your chilis, stews and soups. The pressure cooker will tenderize meat until it's falling apart (pulled pork! Sunday pot roast!) and get your beans just right in under half and hour. The rice cooker will give those carbs the workout of their life in under 10 minutes. Cook your eggs or veggies under the steamer, or brown chicken with the saute function. If you've got a yearning to make yogurt, you can do that, too. Scared of your microwave? Heat your leftovers with the "warm" setting.

What can't it cook?

This wunderkind does have its limitations. It does not function as a grill, so if you want that smoke flavor and charcoal sear, you'll have to bust out the George Foreman or the Weber. It won't blend things for you, so if you make soup and then want to puree it, you'll have to transfer it to your food processor. Let it be known these 6- to 8-quart tubs are not sleight of frame; if you don't have space for the big boy in your kitchen, it might not be for you.

Read the manual

We want to believe we can figure out any device on= our own. But in this case, putting your literacy to use will save you a lot of confusion and even injury — you don't want to give yourself a steam burn because you didn't turn the pressure valve to the right setting.

Here's to easier home meals in 2018.

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What the Giants offense could look like under Pat Shurmur

The new Giants head coach has an offensive mind that will try to fix New York's attack.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The New York Giants made the hiring of new head coach Pat Shurmur official on Monday evening, less than 24 hours after his Minnesota Vikings were thrashed by the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC Championship Game.

It was an anticlimactic end to a season that saw Shurmur mold an unassuming offense as its coordinator into a productive unit that went 13-3 with a journeyman quarterback in Case Keenum. Not to mention Shurmur orchestrated the final drive of the NFC Divisional Round against the New Orleans Saints that will be talked about for years to come after Stefon Diggs' 61-yard game-winning reception as time expired.

As an offensive coordinator for seven years with the St. Louis Rams, Eagles and Vikings, Shurmur has spent plenty of time with NFL offenses over the past decade and he'll need every bit of that knowledge to try and fix the Giants in 2018.

On paper, New York's attack was supposed to be one of the most imposing in the NFL in 2017. But injuries sustained by Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall which ended their seasons early, along with an inept offensive line and a slacking run game, curtailed any hope of legitimate success.

The Giants were ranked 21st in total yards last season while coming in 31st in points scored. Veteran quarterback Eli Manning was left running for his life with little support around him, which led to his unceremonious and controversial benching by former head coach Ben McAdoo.

Despite rumors of Manning's demise in New York running rampant after his reinsertion under center following McAdoo's firing and as the Giants secured the No. 2 pick in the draft where they could select a quarterback, the 37-year-old is still the man moving forward, according to general manager Dave Gettleman.

So what kind of offense might the Giants be running come 2018? If Shurmur's last year of coordinating Minnesota's offense indicated anything, it's that the Giants might get back to basics:

DON'T EXPECT HUGE CHANGES

Shurmur has kept many parts of the west coast offense in his repertoire after working with Chip Kelly in Philadelphia from 2013-2015. That means pretty conservative play-calling and shorter routes from wide receivers. It allows Manning, like he did under McAdoo, to get the ball out of his hand quicker instead of facing the rush, which could be a constant threat if the Giants are unable to significantly upgrade their offensive line.

BACK TO THE RUN GAME

Minnesota's offense under Shurmur certainly enjoyed running the football in 2017. The Vikings ranked second in the NFL with 501 rush attempts and seventh with 1,957 yards gained. He's not afraid to run his backs away from the trenches, going outside zone (off-tackle runs, for example) 22.5 percent of his runs, per Pro Football Focus. This shouldn't be a difficult concept for Giants fans to grasp considering championships have been won over the last four decades because of strong, methodical run games spanning from Joe Morris to O.J. Anderson to Brandon Jacobs to Ahmad Bradshaw. Granted, this kind of offensive set-up is doomed to fail if running lanes are not cleared by the offensive line.

PREPARE FOR PLAY-ACTION

Because of Shurmur's fondness for the ground game, quarterbacks — no matter their pedigree — have a good chance of succeeding. There's a reason why Keenum put up a career season after joining his third team in six seasons. Play-action passing, or faking the run, force opposing defenses to stay honest. Linebackers and members of the secondary are forced to pause instead of dropping into coverage while the defensive line might alter their routes to the quarterback in anticipation of a rush attempt. This will give Beckham Jr., Marshall and the developing tight end Evan Engram more of an opportunity to get open quicker.

While the Giants still need an offensive coordinator, new head coach Pat Shurmur will likely look for someone who will run his style of attack. GETTY IMAGES

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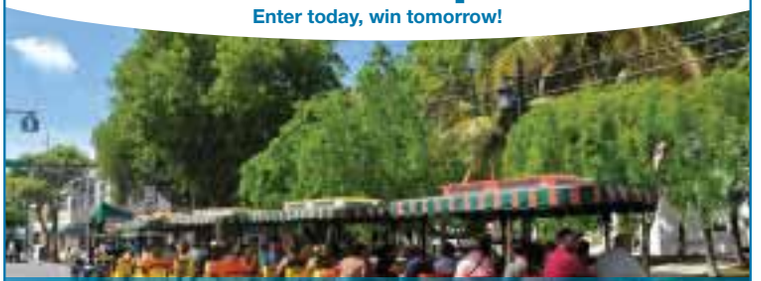

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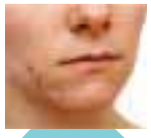

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NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF QUEENS
CITIBANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR STRUCTURED ASSET MORTGAGE INVESTMENTS II TRUST 2007-AR5, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-AR5 Plaintiff, Against FAITH ESIMAI, ET AL., Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered on 1/20/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY in Courtroom #25 on 2/9/2018 at 10:00 am, premises known as 205-21 110th Avenue, Saint Albans, NY 11412, and described as follows: ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Queens County Treasurer as Block 10945 and Lot 127.
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $621,324.77 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 14097/12.
Arthur Nicholas Terranova, Esq., Referee
SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys at Law
255 Merrick Road
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Dated: 12/20/2017

NOTICE OF FORMATION of JP Guitar Repair LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 5900 Arlington Ave., Apt. 11-T, Riverdale, NY 10471. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF QUEENS,
NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. AMY NELSON A/K/A NELSON A/K/A EVANGELIST AMY NELSON, ET AL., Defendants.
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on December 15, 2017, I the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse, Courtroom 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY on February 02, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. premises known as 107-17 Princeton Street, Queens, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Queens, County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block 10083 and Lot 2. Approximate amount of judgment is $56,013.29 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 703640/15.
David Dikman, Esq., Referee
Windels, Marx, Lane & Mittendorf, LLP
156 West 56th Street
New York, NY 10019
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF QUEENS
LEHMAN MORTGAGE TRUST MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-2, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, BY PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS SERVICER WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY UNDER THE TRANSACTION DOCUMENTS., Plaintiff against
MAFIQUE MIAH, SAUDIA MIAH, et al Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 12, 2017.
I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Court Room # 25, Jamaica, N.Y. on the 23rd day of February, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. premises described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York.
Said premises known as 135-31 129th Street South, Ozone Park, N.Y. 11420 aka 135-21 129th Street South, Ozone Aprk, N.Y. 11420.
(Block: 11863, Lot: 20).
Approximate amount of lien $783,973.45 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 705975-15.
Arthur Terranova, Esq. Referee
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C.
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
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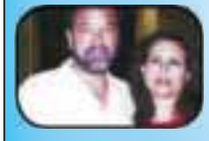

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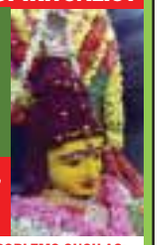

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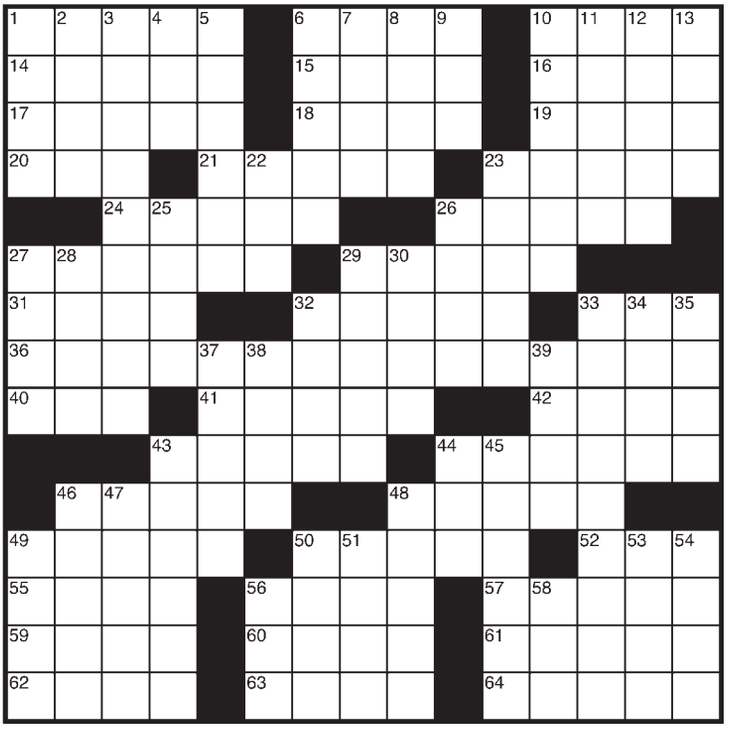
Across

1 Golden Horde member
6 Ms. Paquin
10 AC supply
14 Utah canyon
15 Underground thing
16 Girl in "Dracula"
17 Prepared to fire
18 Mo. expense
19 Subj. of rollovers
20 Gym iteration
21 Rome's river
23 Munchies
24 Fridge maker
26 Bedroom piece
27 Mild, as climate
29 Gale or squall
31 Literary work
32 Midwest airport
33 Crumple up
36 Event with crates (2 wds.)
40 Proposal response
41 Joyce Carol --
42 Tick off
43 Shirt alligators
44 Journalized
46 Historic shrine
48 Cloud the issue
49 Requires
50 Fleeting
52 Physics workplace
55 Spoken
56 Architect -- van der Rohe
57 1980 Tony winner
59 Collapse
60 Potpourri
61 Hockey arenas
62 Kind of pearl
63 Vol's state
64 Epics

Down

1 Skier's lift (hyph.)
2 Racer -- Luyendyk
3 Eardrums
4 Crack pilot
5 Kind of sale (hyph.)
6 Island near Venezuela
7 Observe
8 Black, to Yves
9 Maj. ocean
10 Grammy-winning rapper
11 Istanbul moolah
12 Pass legislation
13 Hogshead
22 Wayfarer's refuge
23 Destroy documents
25 Japanese soup
26 Hayseed humor
27 Trunk or torso
28 Fencing sword
29 Jerks away
30 New Mexico art colony site
32 Director -- Preminger
33 Squirming
34 Ready and willing partner
35 Did batik
37 Weaving machines
38 Othello's betrayer
39 Cogito -- sum
43 Served soup
44 Kung fu expert Bruce --
45 Bids
46 Cliffside refuge
47 Depart
48 Plains browsers
49 Eggy drinks
50 Liver output
51 Curb, with "in"
53 Aleutian island
54 Game fish
56 Witty remark
58 Itinerary word



metro.us/sudoku

easy

			3	2				
	6	8	7			3	4	
			4	8	5	1		
	7	9				5		
			8	4	7			
		3				8	6	
		5	1	3	8			
	1	2			4	9	5	
				9	2			

hard

9							1	
	8	5		3		6		
	3	1			8		2	5
	5		8			3		
			5		6			
		2			1		9	
6	2		4			9	5	
		8		2		1	6	
	1							2

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Discipline will pay off. Set your goals and don't veer off course. What you accomplish will speak volumes about the kind of person you are. Be a doer, not a talker.

Taurus Don't let the little setbacks get you down. Added discipline and desire will take you in a direction that will result in greater satisfaction and an unexpected reward.

Gemini Put a hold on excessive behavior and start looking into investments that will help stabilize your life and financial future. Put your money into something concrete.

Cancer Focus on your accomplishments and working alongside people you feel can offer you much. Success will come if you let your creative imagination flow.

Leo Emotional distress is likely to develop if you can't agree with someone you work or play with. Be willing to compromise if you want to get something accomplished.

Virgo Attend a conference or set up a meeting with someone you feel has something to offer. Avoid making emotional decisions that could alter your personal agenda.

Libra Making home improvements or alterations to your living arrangements, or lowering your overhead are apparent. Refuse to let your emotions lead to a poor decision.

Scorpio The desire for change will overpower you if you let your imagination take control and your ideas grow disproportionately to your budget. Look for cheap solutions.

Sagittarius Don't feel you must follow the crowd. Protect against anyone trying to get you to invest in anything that doesn't benefit you directly.

Capricorn Getting along with friends, relatives and peers will not be easy if you let your emotions take the reins. Don't act in haste when a practical strategy is required.

Aquarius Willfulness will help you overcome any obstacles you encounter. Taking physical action to reach your goal will send a message to anyone trying to stand in your way.

Pisces A little Pisces charm and power of persuasion can go a long way. Aim to get ahead using all your attributes, experience and skills. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

K	N	A	V	E		B	I	T	E		V	A	S	E
R	I	L	E	Y		R	O	A	D		E	L	A	N
I	N	A	N	E		E	U	R	O		R	O	U	T
S	A	N	D	B	L	A	S	T		L	A	N	C	E
			S	O	A	K		S	W	I	N	G	E	R
M	O	O		L	I	S	A		R	F	D			
U	R	L		T	R	I	G		Y	E	A	R	L	Y
I	C	E	S			N	E	O			H	O	P	E
R	A	S	C	A	L		N	U	B	S		S	G	T
			O	H	O		A	T	O	M		H	A	I
S	T	E	R	E	O	S		F	L	O	P			
H	A	R	E	M		H	E	A	D	L	O	C	K	S
I	H	O	P		B	R	I	C		D	I	A	N	A
S	O	D	A		R	U	N	E		E	S	T	O	P
H	E	E	D		A	B	E	D		R	E	S	T	S

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